

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00638 142158Z

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SUBJECT: SHORTCOMINGS IN GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION WORK CITED

SUMMARY: PRAVDA EDITORIAL TODAY CRITICIZES SHORTCOMINGS IN GEOLOGICAL WORK TO DEVELOP NEW SUPPLIES OF FUELS AND MINERALS AND INDICATES CONCERN OVER THE LONG-TERM EFFECT ON INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT. BELOW-PAR PERFORMANCE IN ACTUAL EXPLORATION WORK WAS SINGLED OUT ALONG WITH DELAYS IN INTRODUCTION OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS AND FAILURE OF SUPPLIER MINISTRIES TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY DRILL PIPE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. CITING GROWING DEMANDS OF INDUSTRY FOR RAW MATERIALS, METALS, AND PARTICULARLY FUELS, AND PAST SUCCESSES IN MEETING THESE DEMANDS, THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL OF JANUARY 14 WENT ON TO CRITICIZE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF CURRENT GEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES. THREE MAIN AREAS OF CONCERN WERE NOTED.

2. FIRST, THE ACTUAL EXPLORATION WORK IS "FAR" FROM USING
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00638 142158Z

ALL "RESERVES AND POTENTIALS." THE PACE OF DRILLING WORK MUST BE SPEEDED UP, IDLE-TIME OF EQUIPMENT REDUCED, NON-PRODUCTIVE EXPENDITURES ELIMINATED, AND DEPOSIT SITES BETTER PREPARED. ANALYTICAL WORK IS NOT ALWAYS THOROUGH AND THE QUALITY OF ACTUAL EXPLORATION WORK IN SOME REGIONS IS "LOW." AMONGST OTHERS, THE MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY IS CALLED UPON TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS AND TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO OVERCOME THEM. THE SECOND

PROBLEM MENTIONED IS THAT SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL HAVE "INADEQUATE" INFLUENCE ON THE PACE OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROGRESS IN EXPLORATION WORK.

3. THIRD, AND THE MOST SPECIFIC PROBLEM CITED BY PRAVDA, IS THE "BOTTLENECKS" IN SUPPLY OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT FOR GEOLOGICAL WORK. THERE ARE SHORTAGES OF DRILLING EQUIPMENT, MARKING AND DRILL PIPE, DIAMOND BITS, AND LARGE TRACTORS AND BULLDOZERS. FOR MANY YEARS, THE MINISTRY OF FERROUS METALLURGY HAS NOT MASTERED PRODUCTION OF HIGH-DURABILITY, ANTI-CORROSIVE DRILLING PIPE, THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY AND TRANSPORT MACHINE BUILDING HAS EXPERIENCED THE SAME PROBLEM WITH MACHINERY FOR EXPLORATION OF DEPOSITS, AND THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND PETRO-CHEMICAL MACHINE BUILDING HAS NOT MET MINIMUM DEMANDS FOR DRILLING INSTRUMENTS.

4. FURING THE TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976 - 80) PRAVDA STATES THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN GEOLOGY ARE TO INCREASE RESERVES OF MINERALS-RAW MATERIALS IN AREAS WITH DEVELOPED INDUSTRY

AND IN NEWLY DEVELOPING REGIONS, AND TO SECURE THESE RESERVES AT A PACE AHEAD OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXTRACTING INDUSTRIES. 1977 TARGETS INCLUDE A SPEED-UP IN THE SEARCH FOR DEPOSITS OF OIL, GAS AND CONDENSATE IN NORTHERN TYUMEN OBLAST, EAST SIBERIA, THE YAKUTSK AND KOMI ASSR'S, ARKHANGEL'SK OBLAST, CENTRAL ASIA, KAZAZKHSTAN, AND IN THE MIDDLE-OB' REGION.

COMMENT: CRITICISMS OF THE PACE AND QUALITY OF GEOLOGICAL WORK HAVE BEEN RECURRENT FOR SOME TIME. THE PRAVDA TREATMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00638 142158Z

OF THE SUBJECT AND ITS APPEARANCE SO EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR SUGGEST THAT THE PROBLEMS OUTLINED ARE OF INCREASING CONCERN. AS THE PRODUCTION OF FUELS AND RAW MATERIALS INCREASINGLY SHIFTS TO SIBERIA, EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RESERVES IS CRUCIAL TO MEET GROWING DEMANDS AND TO REPLACE OUTPUT IN AREAS WHERE DEPOSITS ARE BEING DEPLETED. THE SHORTAGE OF HIGH QUALITY EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN CITED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES HERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THE PRESENT CRITICISM INDICATES LITTLE

PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD RESOLUTION. AT BASE, IT UNDERSCORSS THE APPARENT CONTINUING NEED OF THEUSSR FOR WESTERN ASSISTANCE IN GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION AND DRILLING WORK IF PLANNED NEW RESERVES ARE TO BE SECURED.

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